

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 294

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Alfred Sharp upon his receipt of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers' 2008 Cartouche Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as professionals of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Alfred Sharp, who recently won the Society of American Period Furniture Makers' 2008 Cartouche Award in recognition of his reputation for excellence in craftsmanship and his contributions toward the understanding and appreciation of traditional American furniture design and construction; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Mr. Sharp attended Montgomery Bell Academy before graduating from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, after working in the Vanderbilt development office for more than two years, Alfred Sharp came to realize that he did not find fulfillment in office work; and

WHEREAS, discovering his passion for creating with his hands through work in construction and carpentry, Mr. Sharp began to study the almost lost art of fine hand woodworking in order to craft fine furniture reminiscent of the artful masterpieces of the eighteenth century; and

WHEREAS, after selling the 13,500 square foot low-end furniture workshop that he had started in order to support himself and his family, Alfred Sharp opened a small woodworking shop in which he uses only original-period hand tools in order to concentrate on making high quality, unique furniture in the eighteenth century American style, along with the nineteenth and twentieth century historical styles; and

WHEREAS, he also has designed and built many pieces that combine traditional values and proportions with contemporary idioms and exotic woods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp has been commissioned to make unique pieces for a variety of entities and institutions, including the Hermitage, the Tennessee State Museum, Travelers' Rest Plantation and Museum, the Rattle and Snap Plantation, and the Tennessee State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bredesen, recognizing Alfred Sharp's immense talents, commissioned him to design and build his current desk, which features many ornate adornments, such as carvings of bears and a poem written in Cherokee which is carved around the top edge of the desk; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp's outstanding work has been featured in many noteworthy venues, including Philadelphia's 2003 Wilson Art Exhibition and the 2003 "Art of Tennessee" exhibition at the Tennessee State Museum, and many publications, such as *Woodshop News*, *Colonial Homes*, *Southern Living*, *Fine Woodworking*, *Woodwork*, *Woodshop News*, and *Historic Preservation*; and

WHEREAS, his singular talents have earned him numerous awards, including the 2002 Best of Tennessee Award presented by the Tennessee Artist Craftsman Association in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, an active leader in his profession, Alfred Sharp serves on the Board of Trust for The Furniture Society, on the Board of Directors for the Cannon County Art Center and the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, and as the President of the Cumberland Furniture Guild; additionally, he dedicates his time to teaching courses and seminars at various festivals and at O'more College of Art and Design; and

WHEREAS, Alfred Sharp is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of forty years, Kathy Sharp; his children and their spouses, Taylor and Zephyr Sharp, Emily and Jason Brewer, and Elliot and Tessa Sharp; and his grandchildren, Stefan and Sadie Sharp and Jacob and Sam Brewer; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Sharp for his dedication to excellence in the crafting of fine furniture and all his undertakings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Alfred Sharp upon the occasion of his winning the Society of American Period Furniture Makers' 2008 Cartouche Award and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.